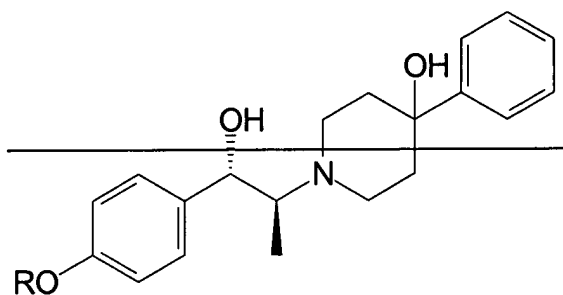
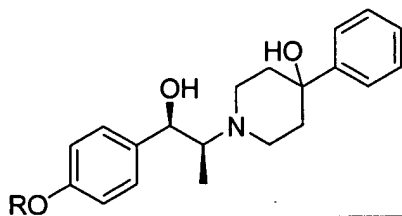
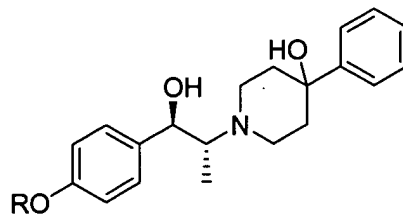
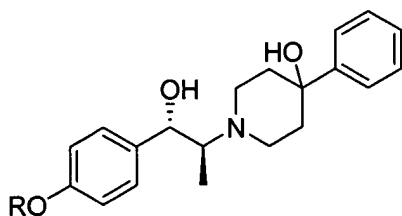


All claims pending, including those unchanged by the present amendment, are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

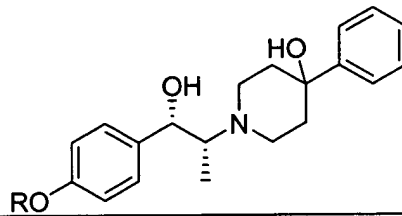
1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a nonracemic diastereomer selected from the group consisting of (1R,2R)-, (1R,2S)-, (1S,2R)- and (1S,2S)- 1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanol compounds of the structural formula I [and stereoisomers thereof],



I

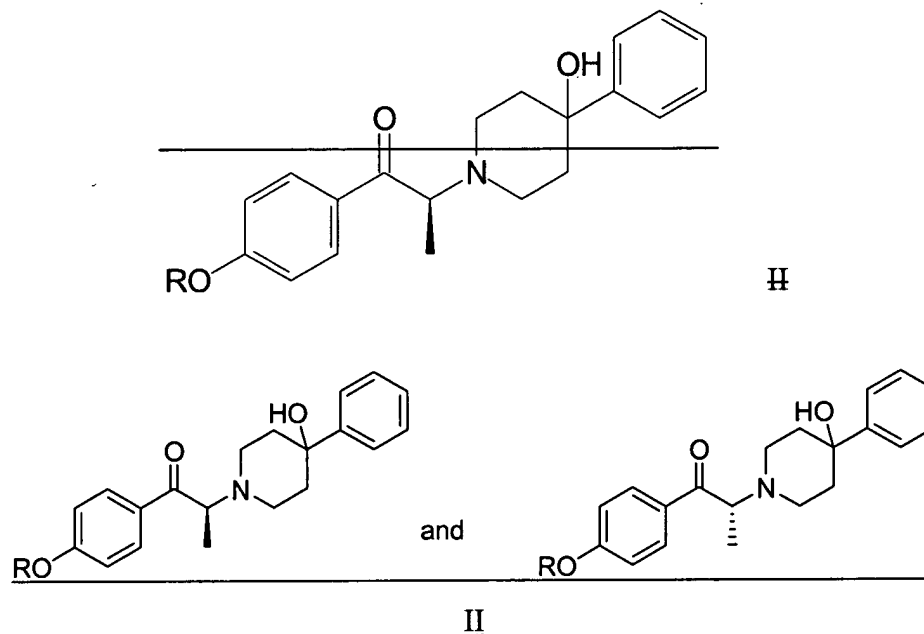


and



# I

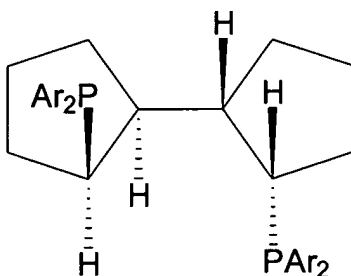
wherein R is selected from hydrogen and hydroxyl protecting groups, comprising hydrogenating a corresponding nonracemic ketone selected from 1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone compounds of the structural formula II [and enantiomers thereof],



in the presence of a catalyst system comprising ruthenium, a nonracemic diphosphine ligand, a bidentate amine ligand selected from amino-thioethers and achiral diamines, and a base to produce said nonracemic diastereomer in a diastereomeric excess of at least 70%.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the nonracemic diphosphine ligand comprises a 2,2'-bis(diorganophosphino)-1,1'-bis(cyclic) structure.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the nonracemic diphosphine ligand is selected from enantiomers of diphosphine ligands having the structural formula



wherein Ar is an aryl group.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein Ar is phenyl.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the bidentate amine ligand is an amino-thioether.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the amino-thioether is a 2-(alkylthio)aniline.

7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the 2-(alkylthio)aniline is selected from 2-(methylthio)aniline and 2-(ethylthio)aniline.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the bidentate amine ligand is an achiral diamine.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein the achiral diamine comprises no chiral carbon centers.

10. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein the achiral diamine is a 1,2-phenylene-diamine.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the base is selected from basic inorganic and organic salts, alkylguanidines, aminophosphazenes, and proazaphosphatranes.

1                   12.     (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the base is selected from  
2     alkylguanidines, aminophosphazenes, and proazaphosphatranes.

1                   13.     (Original) The process of claim 12 wherein the base is an alkylguanidine.

1                   14.     (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the base is a  
2     pentaalkylguanidine.

1                   15.     (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl protecting group  
2     is benzyl.

1                   16.     (Original) The process of claim 15 wherein the diastereomer is a *syn*-  
2     diastereomer.

1                   17.     (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the *syn*-diastereomer is the  
2     (1*S*,2*S*) diastereomer.

1                   18.     (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the *syn*-diastereomer is  
2     formed in at least about 90% diastereomeric excess.

1                   19.     (Original) A process for the preparation of (1*S*,2*S*)-1-(4-benzoxo-phenyl)-  
2     2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1- by catalytic hydrogenation of (2*S*)-1-(4-benzyl-  
3     phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone using a catalyst system comprising  
4     ruthenium, a (*S,S,S,S*)-2,2'-bis-(diarylphosphino)-1,1'-dicyclopentane ligand, a 1,2-phenylene  
5     diamine ligand, and a base.

1                   20.     (Original) A process for the preparation of (1*S*,2*S*)-1-(4-benzoxo-phenyl)-  
2     2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1- by catalytic hydrogenation of (2*S*)-1-(4-benzyl-  
3     phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone using a catalyst system comprising  
4     ruthenium, a (*S,S,S,S*)-2,2'-bis-(diarylphosphino)-1,1'-dicyclopentane ligand, a  
5     2-(alkylthio)aniline ligand, and a base.